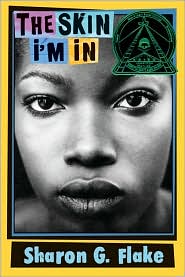
[](http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/imageviewer.asp?ean=9781423103851)

**Creative Writing Piece**

**Juanita C. Richardson**

**RDG 675**

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Introduction to Poems

I selected four main characters from the novel *The Skin I’m In* by Sharon Flake and decided to delve into their inner thoughts by creating poetry in their point of view. I consider this to be a meaningful task for students to participate in during the reading of fictional pieces. It’s a great way to teach characterization and analysis of character’s feelings and actions. I used some familiar poem formats, but I also created free verses to model that poetry is what you make it.

*Note: Because it is non-print the minimum page count is exceeded*

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Maleeka

Why is it?

Why is it that hormones make you heartless?

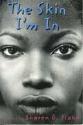
To the point where…

Feelings are pulverized

Self-esteem is demolished

Friendships are Fickle

Why is it that bullies bully?

*[](http://rds.yahoo.com/_ylt=A0WTefNnzCJM4GQAvBmJzbkF;_ylu=X3oDMTBpc2ozM2gzBHBvcwM0BHNlYwNzcgR2dGlkAw--/SIG=1i3sdrns9/EXP=1277435367/**http:/images.search.yahoo.com/images/view?back=http%3A%2F%2Fimages.search.yahoo.com%2Fsearch%2Fimages%3Fp%3DMaleeka%2BMadison%26ei%3DUTF-8%26fr%3Dyfp-t-701-1-s%26fr2%3Dtab-web&w=120&h=180&imgurl=www.arapahoelibraries.org%2Fimages%2FpageAccent%2FTheSkinImIn.jpg&rurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arapahoelibraries.org%2Fgo2.cfm%3Fpid%3D3486%26p1%3D6383&size=3k&name=TheSkinImIn+jpg&p=Maleeka+Madison&oid=de6235cc47c51dfc&fr2=tab-web&no=4&tt=6&sigr=11pelpinc&sigi=11r93ovaq&sigb=134hgen2f)*

To the point where…

Tears transform into rivers of sorrow

Confidence betrays you

Acceptance is on trial

Why is that I have to fit in?

To the point where…

My voice has retreated

My opinions are assimilated

My creativity is sheltered

Why is it that I even care?

To the point where…

My journal is flooded with prayers

My thoughts ambush my actions

Socializing is a chore

Why? Why? Why Xs 4

MALEEKA

I am Smart and Poor

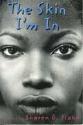
I **wonder** if life gets harder or easier

I **hear** my father’s voice when I’m sad

I **see** my mom finally moving on

I **want** my outer appearance to resemble how I feel inside

I **am** smart and poor

*[](http://rds.yahoo.com/_ylt=A0WTefNnzCJM4GQAvBmJzbkF;_ylu=X3oDMTBpc2ozM2gzBHBvcwM0BHNlYwNzcgR2dGlkAw--/SIG=1i3sdrns9/EXP=1277435367/**http:/images.search.yahoo.com/images/view?back=http%3A%2F%2Fimages.search.yahoo.com%2Fsearch%2Fimages%3Fp%3DMaleeka%2BMadison%26ei%3DUTF-8%26fr%3Dyfp-t-701-1-s%26fr2%3Dtab-web&w=120&h=180&imgurl=www.arapahoelibraries.org%2Fimages%2FpageAccent%2FTheSkinImIn.jpg&rurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.arapahoelibraries.org%2Fgo2.cfm%3Fpid%3D3486%26p1%3D6383&size=3k&name=TheSkinImIn+jpg&p=Maleeka+Madison&oid=de6235cc47c51dfc&fr2=tab-web&no=4&tt=6&sigr=11pelpinc&sigi=11r93ovaq&sigb=134hgen2f)*

I **pretend** I don’t need friends to be happy

I **feel** anxious when I wake up

I **touch** my dad’s hand for encouragement

I **worry** that I’ll always be unfortunate

I **cry** when I remember how good it use to be

I **am** Smart and Poor

I **understand** that my current circumstances are fleeting

I **say** that I am my own person

I **dream** of a place where happiness resides

I **try** to put myself in others shoes

I **hope** that being poor won’t hold me back

I **am** smart and poor… I mean temporarily in a financial bind

**Charlese**

Dear Mama,

I wish you were here

My life would be much better

I resent you for leaving

Even if it wasn’t in your control

Dear Mama,

How come your death killed my perspective?

**

Slaughtered my hope?

Defeated my motivation?

Incarcerated my purpose?

Dear Mama,

Why doesn’t sister shower me with love like you did?

Is it because she resents me?

Doesn’t she know we’re all we got?

Can’t she understand I’m hurt too?

Dear Mama,

I’m not the girl you once knew

I treat others badly because it makes me feel better

I befriend girls then humiliate them

Accept them then reject them

I know you wouldn’t be proud

Dear Mama,

Send an Angel to my rescue

Sincerely,

Your Baby GirlC:\Users\JUANITA\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Q1DGH4B9\MC900442024[1].wmf

**Charlese**

Just Because

Just because I’m popular

Doesn’t mean I’m a better person

Doesn’t mean I’m confident

And doesn’t mean I have it easy

**

Just because I have freedom

Doesn’t mean I don’t want structure

Doesn’t mean I’m and adult

And doesn’t mean I have it easy

Just because I’m envied

Doesn’t mean I’m not envious

Doesn’t mean I’m complete

And doesn’t mean I have it easy

Can I change?

How can I change?

Should I change?

Change is scary!

John-john

You Need

You need thick skin

Thick as my connecting eyebrows

You need a tough attitude

Tough as my sneakers I’ve worn for 2 years straight

**

You need a slick tongue

Slick as my fingers that takes what’s not offered

You need a hard persona

Hard as the meatloaf my mom made last night

You need a cool crew

Cool as my empty bedroom that the night breeze invades

You need thick skin, a tough attitude, a slick tongue, a hard persona and a cool crew

To be respected and survive the war rampaging through the halls of

Middle school

John-john

I am

I am John-John.

Son of cool

Who needs respect, acceptance, attention

Who loves to make others laugh,

Who will go out of their way to be the class clown,

**

Who sees myself in Maleeka,

Who can’t stop making fun of Maleeka,

Who hates the gentle boy in me,

Who thinks too much,

Who fears being exposed, ridiculed, disliked,

Who avoids rejection,

Who dreams of living without keeping up a front,

Resident of Trapped Ville.

Ms. Saunders

Why Bother?

They roll their eyes

Make jokes about my face

Disrespect my authority

And all of this I take

I take it because

I know the breadth of their inner struggle

The depth of their insecurity

The complexity of their decisions

I have to be the one who reminds them of the good in the world

*C:\Users\JUANITA\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WSLC9T5P\MC900057316[1].wmf*

That “this” isn’t forever

That I care about their future

No. I won’t shut them out

Because they choose to follow the leader

No. I won’t bar them from encouragement

Because they ignored my directions

No. I won’t overlook their potential

Because they said “I don’t care”

Because the truth is

They won’t care until they know I care

I can’t just teach content

But I must teach the contents of

Hope, persistence, patience and determination

Maybe the kid who yelled “I don’t care”

Will be the kid thanking me come graduation day

Ms. Saunders

**MY CINQUAINS**

**Teacher**

**Hopeful, Courageous**

**Planning, modeling, assessing**

**Where would you be with out them?**

**Super Hero**

**--------------------------------------------------**



**Business woman**

**Straightforward, serious**

**Prying, strategizing, creating**

**A world of sharks**

**Who I am no longer**

**--------------------------------------------------**

**Open**

**Up to your kids**

**They will love you for it**

**They want you to be a human**

**Try it**

**--------------------------------------------------**

**My face**

**Isn’t pretty**

**But my heart and soul is**

**I try to compensate for it**

**But why?**